



Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership

Semi-Annual Report

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Introductory Note: Name Change

In April 2004 Discovery Channel Global Education Fund changed its name to **Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership**. We will continue our fundamental mission to bridge the information divide in the world's most disadvantaged schools and communities. The ability to involve a wide range of committed partners and donors enables us to continue to expand our reach to help meet the enormous need for better educational resources. Our new name reflects that fact.

Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) public charitable organization that was spearheaded by Discovery Communications, Inc. in 1997. The Partnership was formed as an effort to bring together partners from the private and public sectors in support of an innovative, international, grassroots education and technology project serving populations left out of the information age. Together with locally appropriate video programming and long-term training, television is used as a tool to enhance learning and understanding, share new ideas, honor traditions and stimulate a sense of community at a local and global level.

Executive Summary:

With support from USAID Namibia, Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership (the "Partnership") continues to work with schools and communities in Namibia to implement the Learning Center project by providing television and satellite equipment, training and educational programming from a variety of sources that is responsive to the communities' needs.



**Students from Groot Aub Junior
Secondary School regularly view DSTV
and video programs.**

This report covers project activities from January 2004 – May 2004 and highlights the positive impact of the project on students, teachers and communities in Namibia. The 12 GDA-supported schools continue to thrive, maximizing the resources and training they have received from the Partnership, the details of which are below. USAID continues to receive recognition by the Ministry of Education, media, other partners, and communities for its support of a proven, grassroots, education and technology project making a positive difference in rural schools and communities. We look forward to other Alliance activities being launched in these schools.

During this period the Partnership was able to leverage the contributions of USAID and MultiChoice Namibia through another public-private partnership with the New York-based Africa-America Institute (AAI). With support from the AAI, the Partnership has launched the project in six additional schools.

These and other accomplishments are discussed in greater detail in later sections of this report.

Learning Center project status (as of May 2004):

Location:	Namibia
Project began in schools:	- April 2003 in the 12 sites with USAID/MCN - March 2004 in the 6 sites with AAI
Duration:	3 years from start date at each school
Number of Learning Centers:	18
Number of teachers trained:	302
Number of students reached:	15,911
Number of people attending workshops at the Learning Centers:	Approximately 3,000
Number of community members served by the project:	Approximately 131,260

Project accomplishments January 2004- May 2004:

1. Government and media developments

Since the Learning Center project was first launched in 2003, its partners USAID, MultiChoice Namibia and AAI continue to receive recognition from the Ministry of Basic Education, Sport and Culture (MBESC), and the media, for their support of a sustainable, innovative project that delivers critical information to rural, under-resourced populations that previously had little or no access to information available via television. We are pleased to report that the MBESC continues to offer its support for the project and is enthusiastic about the positive results already being demonstrated in the schools and communities.

On May 26, 2004, the Global Education Partnership attended a meeting of the Africa-America Institute's Board of Trustees in Washington, DC. The featured speaker was the **Permanent Secretary of Namibia's MBESC**, who spoke about the positive impact of the Learning Center project. Ms. Loini Katoma expressed the Ministry's continued commitment to the project, and her hopes that the project will expand to benefit more children in Namibia.

On February 17-18, Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership participated in the **Parliamentary Expo in Windhoek**. The DCGEP Country Representative, Ms. Nora Ndopu, had the opportunity to showcase the Learning Center project to government officials and ministers, including **His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma**. Dr. Nujoma expressed his interest in the project and his appreciation to the Global Education

Partnership, and its partners in Namibia, for reaching out to schools and communities who otherwise would not have access to relevant, timely information.

On February 18, Ms. Ndopu was invited to talk about the Learning Center project in a live radio program called **“The Chat Show.”** “The Chat Show” is a popular daily live talk show that focuses on current affairs. The Country Representative spoke about the project and its local partners, namely USAID Namibia and MultiChoice Namibia.

The Learning Center project was also recently featured in the April 27 issue of **“The Namibian” (please see attached article).** The article follows up with Groot Aub Junior Secondary School almost a year after the national launch of the project, and includes many teacher and student quotes about the positive impact of the project.

Finally, in an effort to support MultiChoice Namibia’s publicity efforts, the Partnership is currently planning with MultiChoice Namibia an “Education Day” event, with the following goals:

- To create public awareness of MultiChoice Namibia, USAID, and AAI’s contributions to education in Namibia through the Partnership;
- To raise awareness and emphasize the impact of using TV and video in the classroom;
- To create a platform for reaching out to other potential sponsors.

Education Day is scheduled for June 16 to coincide with celebrations of the “Day of the African Child,” which is designated by UNICEF to honor the lives of African children. The Education Day event will consist of lesson demonstrations that will compare the impact of a lesson in a class that uses technology and one that does not. Students will present essays and art work inspired by the Global Education

“I have been at this school for almost five years now and I honestly cannot recall a time when attending classes was such fun. I always look forward to coming to the Learning Centre. We have access to more information than we normally did and the classes are just going on nicely. I mean, seeing what you learn provides so much fun. I particularly like to watch the animal programs.”

Youallen Hagen, Grade 10 Student, Groot Aub Junior Secondary School

Partnership video programs and DSTV programs; community members will be asked to share their testimonies about the project; and guests from MultiChoice Namibia, USAID Namibia, the MBESC, National Institute for Educational Development (NIED), Educational Programme Implementation (EPI) and AAI will also deliver presentations about the impact of TV and DSTV in the classroom. The Permanent Secretary, Ms. Loini Katoma, will deliver the keynote remarks. The media and guests from the private and public sectors will be invited. MultiChoice Namibia will use this opportunity to reach out to the media one year after the project launch, as well as to announce their donation of DSTV equipment and services to the six new AAI schools.

The Global Education Partnership and MultiChoice Namibia will proceed to hold Education Day celebrations in each region. A host school will be identified in each of the regions, and other schools will participate by displaying artwork inspired by the various

programming made available to them. Amutanga Combined School will host celebrations in the Ondangwa Region. Dates for the other regions will be determined in the coming weeks.

2. School and community impact

The Learning Centers continue to demonstrate effective use of the equipment, benefiting not only students but also their communities, which use the facilities for workshops and meetings.

Impact: Improved quality of education in primary and secondary schools

The Learning Center project emphasizes creative, flexible, student-centered teaching methods that help students become more engaged in the learning process. Based on scientific research done in three other African countries, and anecdotal evidence from teachers and students in Namibia, the project continues to make a positive impact on students' motivation and learning, especially on their ability to understand abstract concepts in class. Here is what some students have to say:

"I particularly look forward to the mathematics classes, then I can see some of the tough lessons like algebra on television. They show very easy methods of how to get a solution for a difficult sum."

Marvin Basson, 17, student at Groot Aub Junior Secondary School

"Like many in our village, we want information but don't know how to get it. By having a TV and VCR it could give many people information about things in the world."

Student from Olupumbu Combined School

"The Learning Center has brought a sense of learning to the learners and the teachers are also very lively and keen to teach. The whole set-up is very interesting and I expect good results from my school this year."

Jenine Hagen, 16, student at Groot Aub Junior Secondary School

Teachers report that they are more enthusiastic and confident about teaching – and that they enjoy teaching all the more. The impact of teachers' professional development programs, especially those targeting rural teachers, has been well documented by the World Bank, UNESCO, and several educational organizations. As is the case in many developing countries, professional development programs are popular with teachers who are working in isolation and are not accustomed to receiving professional attention. As such, they welcome the opportunity to learn and in many cases, they are more receptive to professional training than their urban counterparts. While these findings are generic, they are consistent with anecdotal evidence from the Learning Centers in Namibia and with the baseline evaluations performed by the Global Education Partnership at each school selected to join the project. This is what some teachers have to say about the project:

"Through this project we would be able to give our community a gateway to the English language, but more importantly a view of the outside world."

Teacher, Olupumbu Combined School

"I can proudly say that the project is reaching its objective which is to improve education through the provision of appropriate technology and relevant content. As you can see the children are relating very well to the project. They are very enthusiastic and show eagerness to attend these classes. It is also fun to teach in these centres because the video shows what you are teaching."

Willem Vries, Teacher, Groot Aub Junior Secondary School

Impact: School and community buy-in

In our last report to USAID Namibia (dated December 22, 2003) we mentioned that thieves broke into one school, Onamulunga Combined School in Ondangwa East, and stole all the equipment except the satellite dish. Prior to the robbery in September 2003, the school had hired a security guard to safeguard the Learning Center. Although theft is rare in the Learning Centers in Namibia, this incident occurred only seven months after the project was launched in the school. In just a short time, the school and community had already experienced the value of information available through television, video and satellite, and they were adamant to have the equipment replaced.

Initially, the school raised N\$6,000 to replace the equipment. But having entrusted the safety of the equipment to the security guard, the school and its administrators felt that the security company should take responsibility for the incident. In March 2004 the regional director of Ondangwa invited the manager of the security company to a meeting with the school, community, and the parents. The manager was given a deadline to replace the stolen equipment. On the 25th of March, the manager delivered a new set of equipment, put a cage around the wooden cabinet and repaired the broken doors. The school then contacted MultiChoice Namibia's regional agents to assist them with the installation of the new equipment. The school and the community are making good use of their new equipment.

In another school, Amutanga Combined School, the governor of Ondangwa, Hon. Klemens Kashuupulwa, donated a check for a whole year's payment of a security system installed at the school. Amutanga installed an alarm system and employed a security guard to protect the Learning Center.



This elderly man from the Groot Aub community is among the thousands who use Learning Center facilities to view entertainment and education programs.

Communities are also keen on using the Learning Center facilities for various purposes: for conducting weekly workshops on issues such as HIV/AIDS, as well as for viewing news and entertainment programs. In one school, church groups of 40-50 members meet every Sunday afternoon to watch religious programs. Over the weekend, some community members come to view entertainment shows on DSTV. Parents in the community have been especially supportive of the Learning Centers, because young people come in for viewing instead of whiling time at cuca shops.

3. Learning Centers increase use of HIV/AIDS programs

"We cannot take our children to the world, but we can bring the world to them."
Teacher, Namibia

Learning Centers continue to report increased use of HIV/AIDS programs. In schools such as Jack Francis Primary School, Kamwandi Combined School, Amutanga Combined School, Onathing Combined School, Ongenga Combined School, Kasote Combined School and Groot Aub Junior Secondary School, the Ministry has appointed the Global Education Partnership volunteer coordinators in these schools to serve as HIV/AIDS program coordinators. These teachers were appointed due to their leadership skills and proactive approach to teaching. The Video in the Classroom training that these volunteer coordinators received has enabled them to use the equipment at the Learning Centers for HIV/AIDS education programs for students and communities.

The Global Education Partnership has developed a relationship with an organization called **Steps For the Future**. STEPS is a project networking filmmakers, commissioning editors, individuals and organizations from more than 20 different countries to promote HIV/AIDS awareness through distribution of films, training and upliftment projects in Southern Africa. Through this relationship STEPS has invited Partnership personnel and the volunteer coordinators at Partnership schools to participate in a workshop on how to facilitate discussion and follow up on HIV/AIDS videos. We look forward to the additional impact that this partnership and training will have in the Learning Centers as they continue to learn to maximize the use of television for HIV/AIDS awareness and education.

4. Recruitment of trainers in Caprivi and Omusati

The Global Education Partnership is pleased to report that we have hired Mr. Paulus Haufiku to provide training and monitoring to five USAID/MultiChoice schools and two AAI supported schools in Ohangwena, Oshana and Oshikoto regions. Mr. Haufiku has an extensive teaching background and has served in the Ministry of Basic Education, Sport and Culture as a teacher, department head, and school inspector. Mr. Haufiku has started conducting bi-weekly observation and training sessions in each of the five schools.

After an extensive search, we are also in the final stages of recruiting a trainer based in Caprivi, and are in the process of recruiting another trainer based in Kavango. We anticipate the individual to begin working in Caprivi in the next few weeks.

5. Partnership with the Africa-America Institute

In November 2003, the Africa-America Institute (AAI) joined the Global Education Partnership in extending technology, training and programming to more rural schools in northern Namibia. AAI's financial contribution enabled the Partnership to leverage resources from the USAID GDA and MultiChoice Namibia, building on its existing infrastructure in the country to launch six additional schools in the Caprivi and Omusati education regions.

Between November 2003 and January 2004, the Global Education Partnership Country Representative in Namibia, Ms. Nora Ndopu, met with representatives from AAI, the Ministry of Education, the National Institute for Educational Development (NIED) and the Educational Programme Implementation (EPI) to identify regions to launch the six new sites. In keeping with the recommendation of NIED and EPI, Caprivi and Omusati Education Regions were identified as among those in Namibia that have the least access to educational resources and opportunities. Caprivi, in particular, has the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence, resulting in high teacher death rates in the region.

The Regional Education Directors of Caprivi and Omusati assisted the DCGEP-AAI team identify priority schools in their respective areas.

The DCGEP-AAI team proceeded to visit nine potential Learning Centers in the two regions. At each school, the team provided an introduction of the DCGEP-AAI project and discussed responsibilities and expectations of each school. The team also encouraged schools to submit applications. Each of the nine schools applied for the project and was assessed based on a set of criteria that includes among other things need, proven leadership, ability to sustain the project, community initiative, active partnerships and available storage space for the equipment. Nearly every school that applied – especially in Omusati – showed strong leadership, making the selection process very competitive.

Upon the recommendation of the Ministry, the AAI and Global Education Partnership selected cluster schools to maximize the project's impact and ensure a greater reach. Teachers from the selected Learning Centers are expected to train their peers in the use of TV and video in the classroom. Volunteer coordinators from the Learning Centers will also draft a timetable so students from the 'satellite' schools can use the equipment.

Following a careful review process, the DCGEP-AAI team in Namibia presented



Teachers from Caprivi and Omusati view a TV program as part of the workshop activities.

their recommendations to their respective head offices in the United States. Senior management from the Global Education Partnership and AAI reviewed and approved the school recommendations. Four schools from Caprivi and two from Omusati were selected. Each school signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines the responsibilities of DCGEP-AAI and the school, and each school was requested to send at least three representatives to the Video in the Classroom Intensive training workshop. Invitations were also issued to the regional education directors in Caprivi and Omusati, as well as representatives from NIED and EPI. The schools were requested to prepare cabinets for the equipment and video cassettes.

The week of February 15, 2004, DCGEP staff conducted baseline surveys of the six new project schools, using instruments developed by Clacherty and Associates and the Global Education Partnership. The baseline data will help DCGEP and AAI assess the impact of the project at the end of the three-year period.

The Partnership, in cooperation with AAI, completed a four-day intensive training workshop for teachers from the six new Learning Centers in Caprivi and Omusati regions. The training workshop was the first step in equipping teachers with the skills and confidence to use television and video to complement local curricular objectives. The workshop, held on March 2-5, 2004 was attended by 17 teachers, two advisory teachers from Caprivi and Omusati, and the new Trainer hired by the Global Education Partnership (see Section 4, Recruitment).

These six schools are:

Name of school	Students reached to date	Students reached in the satellite schools	Teachers trained during the 4-day Workshop
Brendan Simbwaye Combined School, Caprivi Education Region	1,166	TBD	3
Bukalo Primary School, Caprivi Education Region	478	2,026	3
Isize Combined School, Caprivi Education Region	220	TBD	3
Ngoma Primary School, Caprivi Education Region	259	920	3
Niita litula Junior Secondary School, Omusati Education Region	3,000	TBD	3
Olupumbu Combined School, Omusati Education Region	300	899	2
TOTAL	5,423	3,845	17

Currently, these six new Learning Centers reach more than 5,400 students and the Global Education Partnership has trained an initial group of 17 teachers during the Video in the Classroom intensive training workshop held in March 2004. All the schools are cluster centers that reach out to 5-6 surrounding schools in their respective areas. As such, the Global Education Partnership expects an increase in the number of students reached as learners from the 'satellite' schools utilize Learning Center facilities in the months to come. We also expect the number of teachers trained to increase as follow-up training takes place in each school and as the trained teachers pass on their new skills to their colleagues.

In May, MultiChoice Namibia offered to donate DSTV equipment and services to the six AAI-funded Learning Centers. DSTV installations will take place in the coming weeks.

The Partnership hopes that these schools may also provide a platform for USAID to launch additional Alliance activities. The schools have already been assessed for their leadership and ability to sustain the project, and are receiving support from the Partnership which would no doubt help ensure success of other Alliance activities.

6. Learning Centers increase use of DSTV programs

Teachers in all schools continue to value and use DSTV channels to supplement their lessons by recording live programs for later use during classroom hours. Some of the more popular and frequently used educational channels and programs are:

- Channel 82: Activate
- Channel 68: History Channel
- Channel 65: Discovery Channel
- Channel 66: National Geographic
- BBC Prime
- Namibia Broadcasting Corporation

MultiChoice Namibia's accredited regional agents continue to be of assistance to the Learning Centers, and for that we are grateful. Recently they were contacted by Onamulunga Combined School in Ondangwa East, whose equipment was stolen in September 2003 and recently replaced, to install their new equipment at no cost (see section on **School and Community Buy-In**).

7. MultiChoice Namibia and the Partnership to present at Microsoft Conference

MultiChoice Namibia and Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership have been invited to jointly present a paper for a conference sponsored by Microsoft in Windhoek. The paper deals with the use of TV and DSTV in education. The conference is tentatively scheduled in July 2004. This presents another opportunity for the Partnership to demonstrate the positive impact and sustainability of this grassroots education and technology project. We will keep USAID Namibia updated about the conference.

Challenges and Recommendations:

While there are advantages to reaching communities in different parts of the country, the vast distances between the schools remain a challenge. Now there are a total of 18 Learning Centers in Namibia distributed in nine education regions (Caprivi, Erongo, Kavango, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto and Windhoek), with the following distances from Windhoek:

Caprivi: 1,500 km one way
Erongo: 450 km one way
Kavango: 800 km one way
Kunene: 400 km one way
Ohangwena: 400 km one way
Omusati: 750 km one way
Oshana: 750 km one way
Oshikoto: 750 km one way
Windhoek: 50 km one way

The new Trainer hired by the Global Education Partnership in Omusati will help provide training and monitoring to the four northern regions. The Global Education Partnership is in the process of recruiting two additional trainers to cover Caprivi and Kavango regions, with the goal of providing more consistent training and monitoring support to sites in each region, and enabling the Country Representative to focus more time on developing partnerships to expand the project.

Plans for the next six months:

The Global Education Partnership has set the following activities for the next six months:

- Continuing to support the Learning Centers so that participating schools and communities can derive maximum educational benefits from the project.
- Employing and training two new part-time Trainers to provide more consistent training and support to schools in Kavango and to new sites in Caprivi.
- Working closely with MultiChoice Namibia to extend DSTV programming to the six AAI-funded Learning Centers in Namibia.
- Ensuring impact and effective use of programming resources, and helping schools find creative ways to use DSTV.
- Looking for new partnerships such as AAI – and/or expanding existing ones - that will enable the project to expand and reach more children and communities in Namibia with the empowering benefits of education through television.

- In support of MultiChoice Namibia's publicity efforts, planning "Education Day" events in the eight other education regions.

Conclusion:

USAID Namibia's contribution to the Learning Center project complements the efforts of the Ministry of Basic Education, Sport and Culture as they aim to optimize teachers' use of technologies in the classroom. USAID's contribution enables the Partnership to provide long-term training and monitoring to the schools, and already the project is demonstrating benefits to students, teachers and communities.

The project continues to receive positive feedback from the Ministry and from the schools and communities it serves. The Partnership will continue to build on the experiences and accomplishments discussed in this report. We are pleased with the growth of the project in Namibia and are grateful to USAID Namibia for its continued support. We look forward to continuing to work together in the months and years to come.



These children from Ncamagoro Combined School view video and satellite programs on a regular basis.

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